



Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage

TELESCOPE-MESSENGER

United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio

Vol. 16 No. 1

Winter 2006

Dr. F. Wilbur Gingrich—Outstanding Scholar

by
Harry M. Buck

In the history of the Evangelical Church—as it was known prior to its merger with the Church of the United Brethren—no person can surpass the importance of the life of Dr. F. Wilbur Gingrich, a loyal and creative lay member of the East Pennsylvania Conference.

Memories of his life will continue to be cherished by serious students of the Bible for decades to come. With the assistance of William F. Arndt, Gingrich produced *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. These nearly 10,000 pages provided a Greek-English lexicon showing thoroughly the development and usage of all the Greek words that appear in the Bible. Following his arduous work over five and one-half years in Chicago, the lexicon was published in 1957 by the University of Chicago Press. It has remained the standard source book on the subject since that time, replacing a previous work published in 1889.

Gingrich produced many other scholarly items also. Eugene H. Barth, a colleague of Gingrich's at Albright College, has catalogued thirty-six articles on subjects such as "How We Got Our New Testament" and "How to Enjoy the Old Testament." Gingrich also produced approximately ninety articles for scholarly journals, thirty-eight book reviews, and many other contributions of value to serious scholars of the Bible. Interestingly, he did all of his writing in long-hand without the use of a typewriter or more recent technology.

Gingrich's contributions, however, were not confined to scholarly publications. For many years before and after the publication of his lexicon he was an outstanding teacher at Albright College and had a major influence on many students who eventually became ministers of the gospel. Professor Gingrich took a special interest

in assisting his students to grow intellectually and spiritually. In addition, he remained a loyal member of Park congregation, his church in Reading, Pennsylvania. For all of these contributions it is appropriate that the present library building at Albright College is named for F. Wilbur Gingrich.

Felix Wilbur Gingrich was born of Pennsylvania-German ancestry on September 27, 1901. His lineal

predecessors were German-speaking Swiss Mennonites. Both of his parents were members of the Evangelical Association founded by Jacob Albright. In addition to Wilbur, the oldest child, the family included Wendell (b. 1904), Newell (b. 1906), and Esther (b. 1921).

From a young age language studies continually fascinated Professor Gingrich, and he is most widely known for his extensive study of Greek, focusing on the languages of the Bible. In addition to history and religious studies, he taught Latin and German at Albright. In preparation for his funeral which he designed before his death, he selected the hymns. His selections included Welsh, German, Russian, French Huguenot, and, of course, English hymns. Dr. Gingrich died at the age of 92 on



Dr. F. Wilbur Gingrich

October 19, 1993. His mind was clear until the time of his passing.

A summary of Dr. Gingrich's life shows a strong commitment to scholarly concerns. He graduated from Lafayette College bearing the *Phi Beta Kappa* distinction in 1923. Respect for scholarship was a family tradition, however. His father, Felix Moyer Gingrich, was professor and principal of Schuylkill Seminary at Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania, one of the schools that later became part of Albright College. Wilbur's younger brothers were involved in education as well. Wendell, a scientist, worked in public health services and then in general medicine. He received his professional degree from the University of Texas Medical School and later specialized in ophthalmology. Brother Newell was a physicist who taught at the University of Missouri and worked on early concerns about nuclear power and its usage.

Sister Esther gave many years of her life teaching in the public schools in addition to rearing two sons. She married Reverend Harry M. Buck, Jr. in 1943. After serving two pastorates they went to

the University of Chicago where Buck earned a doctoral degree. His teaching career was at Wellesley College and Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

Dr. F. W. Gingrich married Lola E. Engel of Ottawa, Illinois in 1929. Their children included John, Barbara [Stokes], Carol Sue [Beck], all of Reading, Pennsylvania.

And so we can join Wilbur Gingrich in singing the words of one of his favorite hymns:

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things have done,
In whom his world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

EUB Center Welcomes New Curator

by
Robert L. Frey

During 2005 United Theological Seminary appointed Rev. Timothy Binkley curator for the EUB Heritage Center. Rev. Binkley received his Master of Art's degree in Public History from Wright State University. He is an ordained Minister in the Church of the Brethren and served as pastor of the Onkama (Michigan) Church of the Brethren from 1994-2003. Before entering the pastorate Tim was a museum professional. He worked at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village (Dearborn, Michigan), the Elmhurst Museum (Elmhurst, Illinois), and AuGlaize Village (Defiance, Ohio). His goal of combining church work and museum/archive work is being realized at United Theological Seminary.

Tim has already made a tremendous difference at the EUB Center. He is working to display our collections in an attractive and easy-

to-use format for our constituents. Recently he has been instrumental in mounting a public program and display of items in our collection relating to the life

and career of Bishop Milton Wright, a major figure in the founding of UTS. With Tim's arrival the Center has also been able to improve its ability to handle requests for research. We are delighted to have Tim on board.

I think it appropriate to mention at this point the tremendous support that the EUB Center has received from UTS President Ed Zeiders. He has a passion for our work that is evident in his own EUB and Evangelical roots. He has given the Center central consideration in securing space in the new Trotwood

facility and in staffing the Center. For this the members of the Advisory Council are extremely thankful. I encourage you to visit the EUB Center and see the new facilities of UTS. Even if you are not a graduate, you will be impressed.



Reverend Timothy Binkley

Bishop Paul W. Milhouse (1910-2005)

by
Robert L. Frey

The Reverend Doctor Paul W. Milhouse, last surviving bishop of the Evangelical United Brethren Church, died in Franklin, Indiana, on March 12, 2005. Born on August 31, 1910 in St. Francisville, Illinois, Bishop Milhouse grew up in a United Brethren family that emphasized “works consistent with their faith.” Paul was active in church as a young person organizing a youth fellowship group and serving as its first president. He began serving a pastorate after graduation from high school, and in the fall of 1929 Paul entered Indiana Central College. He graduated “with honors” in three years, earning his way by working in the college bookstore. Shortly after commencement Paul married Mary Frances Noblitt whom he met in college. Their marriage was blessed with three children—two girls and a boy—and eventually with seven grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren. Paul completed his formal education by earning Bachelor of Divinity (1937) and Doctor of Theology (1945) degrees from the American Theological Seminary.

Until 1950 Dr. Milhouse served pastorates in Illinois. In that year he was elected associate editor of the *Telescope-Messenger*. The 1958 General Conference elected him executive secretary of the General Council of Administration, a position where he was at the center of denominational programs. When a heart attack felled Bishop L. L. Baughman in 1960, Paul Milhouse was elected bishop to replace him serving the southwest conferences of the EUB church located in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas—a large geographical area requiring extensive travel.

After the 1968 merger creating the United Methodist Church, Bishop Milhouse was assigned to the Oklahoma area where he replaced a popular bishop who had served the area for many years. Bishop Milhouse placed a great deal of confidence in his colleagues. He was not a micromanager, preferring to lead by example rather than by directive. As an administrator he

was respected for his humility, his integrity, and his piety. He came from the tradition that believed a bishop was a first among equals—first pastor among pastors—and only secondarily as a chief administrator.

Bishop Milhouse continued to preach as often as he could, once remarking “I wouldn’t have this job if I couldn’t preach.” His style was low-key and conversational. His sermons were based on solid biblical scholarship and showed clear evidence of careful and extensive preparation. This style was evident during his keynote address at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of EUB Church Union held at United Theological Seminary in 1996. Speaking without notes, the Bishop provided a vivid, often humorous, and deeply personal view of the bishops of the EUB Church. It was a spellbinding presentation that reminded those present of the heritage of the denomination.

Bishop Milhouse retired in 1980, and during his retirement years he continued to make important contributions to the United Methodist Church. He served on the Board of Trustees of United Theological Seminary and was elected a life member of the Board. As a member of the Advisory Council of the Center for the EUB Heritage, Bishop Milhouse was interested in preserving the historical records of the church and in seeing the heritage kept alive in a variety of ways. He donated many of his personal papers to the EUB Center where they now form a valuable collection. In recognition of his interest in history, Bishop Milhouse was awarded the Distinguished Service Award of the United Methodist General Commission on Archives and History in 1996.

Bishop Milhouse’s personal friendship and Christian character will be missed by those who knew him. But we can all join in praising God for the life of Bishop Paul W. Milhouse—a man who accepted the “lordship of Jesus Christ” in his life—a man whose works were consistent with his faith—a man whose Christian witness is a model for all of us.

My Connection with the Dead Sea Scrolls

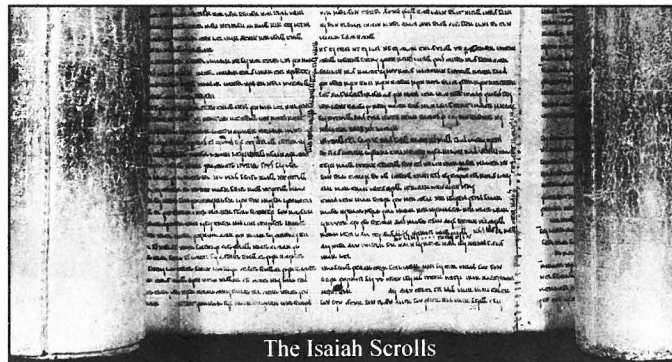
by
Bernard L. Cook

In 1948 the New York *Times* published an article that excited Biblical scholars. The story related the discovery of an ancient scroll of the Book of Isaiah. As Biblical authorities were completing the Old Testament section of the Revised Standard Version to be joined with the New Testament section in a few months, the question arose, "Would this newly found scroll add or change anything in their planned publication of Isaiah?" The answer was anxiously awaited. The *Times* article related the way the ancient scroll was discovered.

A goatherd searching for strays from his flock grazing in the mountains west of the Dead Sea discovered a cave where he thought the wandering goats might be found. He threw a rock into the cave to frighten them out, but saw no goats. Instead he heard something break. Entering the cave he found an earthen jar had broken and several wrapped objects had fallen out. Thinking these might have some value, he sought an Arab trader, Kahlil Eskander Shahan, who often bought such articles. The trader gave him a few silver coins in exchange for the articles, which he realized might have considerable value in the right hands. He took his items to the librarian at the Syrian Orthodox Monastery of St. Mark, who identified the items as scrolls with writings in ancient Hebrew. To get further identification he called the American Schools of Oriental Research in Jerusalem. Dr. John Trever was the Acting Director, and upon receiving the call immediately went to the Monastery to see the scrolls. Because his hobby was paleography, the study of ancient writings, he realized immediately that the newly found writings were quite old. In fact comparing them with some slides he had, he thought the writings were from approximately 100 B.C.

Dr. Trever copied two lines from the scroll and after the Orthodox monks left with the scrolls, he began to study the lines. He identified the lines as Isaiah 65:1. He felt he had to photograph the scrolls and gained access to them again for that purpose. He also found that one of the other scrolls was a Habakkuk Commentary. Because of World War II and the heavy movement of displaced Jews into Palestine, the area had descended into chaos. Dr. Trever left within two weeks with his photographed copies of the scrolls. By this time, however, word had reached the press of his discovery.

Learning that W. F. Albright of Johns Hopkins University had called copies of his prints "... the greatest manuscript discovery of modern times." Dr. Trever began crossing the United States, giving lectures and showing the slides of his finding. After hearing him lecture, Dr. H. H. Thomas secured from Dr. Trever a



The Isaiah Scrolls

commitment to give two lectures in Kansas. Dr. Thomas called me, as pastor of Hyde Park Evangelical United Brethren Church (Wichita), to ask if my church would host one of the lectures. Because of a deep interest in the new findings, I accepted the opportunity immediately. A large 12' x 12' screen was rented and erected in the church chancel. When Dr. Trever arrived in Wichita, I met him as host pastor and had several conversations with him regarding how the scrolls came to him for discovery. The entire community was invited to the Wichita lecture and a standing room only crowd testified to the widespread interest in the newly discovered scrolls.

Nearly fifteen months later I was in a new position at the EUB Church headquarters in Dayton titled, Secretary of Mission Personnel, for the newly formed Board of Missions. I asked to be included in a Mission Study Tour that was

soon to leave for Africa. After studying missions in Sierra Leone and Nigeria, opportunity was given to make an extension of our trip to the Holy Land. So 1967 found me in Jerusalem, Jordan, where our group was housed in the YMCA building. Among the places we visited while there was Qumran where the Dead Sea Scrolls had been discovered. At that time little development of the site had been done, so a guide walked us over the ruins of the Qumran community. The guide showed us the cave where the scrolls were found and told us the area would eventually be improved for tourists.

Our Mission Study Tour group had to wait two days before crossing into Jerusalem, Israel, so we had free time to explore our part of Jerusalem. We visited various scenes where incidents in Jesus' last week took place, including Gordon's tomb where the explorer had said he felt Jesus was laid. One of these free afternoons I walked into the business section of Jerusalem, Jordan, just to see what it was like. Pausing to look at items in a jewelry shop, the proprietor asked me if I was interested in any items I saw. I told him I was not, but was just looking. He said he had nothing to do and invited me in for a cup of tea. I accepted and we began talking (his English was very good!). Upon learning I was a minister he asked me where we had been on our study. "As a minister you surely have heard of the Dead Sea Scrolls discovery." I told him that I had and that I had been host to a lecture by John Trever who discovered the contents of the scrolls. The man's eyes brightened and he exclaimed, "You know John Trevor? Then you must meet my brother. He is the trader who brought the scroll to Trever for identification. He is not here now, but he will be tomorrow afternoon. Come sometime after 2:30 and meet him."

Naturally I was amazed at what an opportunity this might be and agreed to come, saying that other members in my tour group might also want to come. He said only one or two should come with me as his brother did not speak very good English. Sharing this opportunity with my roommate, Dr. E. E. McCann, Iowa Conference superintendent, I invited him to go along.

We met Kahlil Eskander Shahan the next afternoon in his office on the second floor of the jewelry shop. He looked like the pictures that appeared in the *New York Times*. With his brother interpreting, he said he was glad to meet any friend of John Trever's as he valued his friendship highly because he had identified the scrolls and thus made the trader famous. Then he asked, "Would you like to see some of the other things that came from the

cave?" "Yes" we said, not being aware anything else had been found there. He then opened his safe and bought out two drawers of gold coins. We were permitted to pick one up and view it carefully. It appeared to have the same figure on it that was on a copper coin I had found at one of the sites we visited earlier. I have no idea how many coins there were or what their total value was, but it would have been a large figure I am sure.

We thanked him for the visit and returned to our quarters, leaving the next day for Jerusalem, Israel. A few days more found us back in the United States. Barely two weeks later the "Six Days War" started, and I wondered what had happened to the Shahan brothers. According to the *New York Times* the trader fled south and escaped being caught in any of the battles. I also learned that Dr. John Trever had become the Director of the Dead Sea Scrolls Project at The United Methodist School of Theology at Claremont, California. I wrote him a letter detailing my visit with Kando, as he said the trader liked to be called, telling him of the large number of gold coins the trader said were found in the cave. He responded, "It is very doubtful that any gold coins were found in the cave . . . Kando loved to identify everything with that cave. He pulled that claim on me several times. . ." He added further that he had just received word from a Washington, D.C. magazine editor that Kando had died (August 19, 1990). He had hoped to do an article on him for the *Biblical Archaeology Review*. His letter ended, "What a tragedy has now developed in the Mid-East."

My wife and I revisited Jerusalem in 1992 and found everything related to the scrolls had changed. The famed scroll of Isaiah is now housed for permanent display in the Shrine of the Book, along with the many other fragments of scrolls that have been discovered in other caves in the Qumran area. The Essenes have been more thoroughly researched, and their settlement at Qumran developed so that one can now see how extensively that area was used. Gordon's tomb is no longer a quiet place for meditation but has been developed so it is more commercially accessible to accommodate more tourists. Even the Place of the Skull that seemingly was carved in the distant hillside was barely visible. While the intention was to provide more vegetation to shade the area, the former feeling of solemnity and inspiration has been completely lost. I am glad I had the chance to visit the area when it was in its almost pristine, lonely condition.

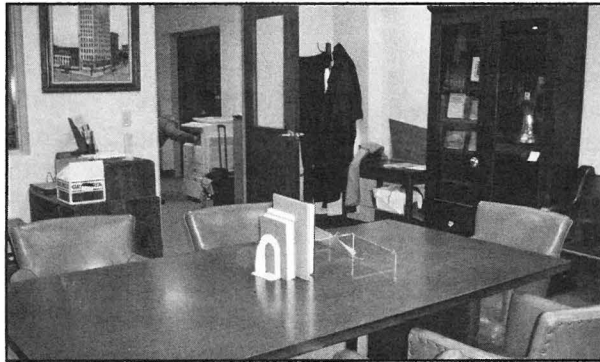
EUB Center Moves to New Location

by
Timothy Binkley

The Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage completed its move during January from the Dayton View Campus, the home of United Theological Seminary since 1923, to the Trotwood Campus, the new home of UTS. Unpacking of boxes and organizing of materials continue with the help of student workers and volunteers.

On the Dayton View Campus rare books, the Seminary Archives, and the Heritage Center collections were stored or displayed in ten separate rooms. Many of these were extremely small spaces, and all of them had serious environmental and security problems.

At the Trotwood Campus all of these historical materials are housed in three spaces: an exhibit room/research center where the public can come to use our resources, a large work room where exhibits are planned and incoming materials are processed, and a state-of-the-art collections storage room. The special collections storage room features constant humidity and temperature controls, rolling compact shelving units to maximize storage capacity, heightened fire protection, and a sprinkler shut-off switch to prevent water damage caused by false alarms.



EUB Center Research Room

All three spaces include ultraviolet light filtration thanks to a recent preservation grant received from the Aviation Heritage Foundation and funded by the Wright Family Fund of the Dayton Foundation. United Theological Seminary's investment in staffing and facilities for the library and the EUB collection reflects a deep commitment to preserving and utilizing our historical assets.

The Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. During those hours the Center's Curator, Timothy Binkley, may be available to assist you by giving tours, helping you locate published works or archival materials related to a topic you are researching, and

offering advice on the preservation of church and family records.

Specific research requests may also be submitted to the Center by telephone (937-529-2201 Ext. 3402), by e-mail (tbinkley@united.edu) or by mail c/o United Theological Seminary, 4501 Denlinger Road, Trotwood, OH 45426. A fee is charged to help cover staff time, materials, and postage used in answering research requests. Please see our website (www.united.edu/eubcenter) for details.

Two Ecumenical Leaders of the EUB Church

by
Dwight S. Busacca

For many years the Evangelical United Brethren Church was in the forefront of ecumenical leadership in the United States—unusual for a rather small denomination. For example **Bishop John S. Stamm** (1878-1956) was elected president of the Federal Council of Churches in 1948.

John S. Stamm, a bishop of the Evangelical and then EUB churches, was a noted preacher, theologian, lecturer, teacher, author, and denominational leader in both national and

international bodies. He graduated from Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville, Illinois. Later he became Professor of Systematic Theology at ETS. In 1926 he was elected a bishop in the Evangelical Church.

Bishop Stamm served as senior bishop and president of the Board of Bishops from 1934 to 1946. He was also president of the Evangelical School of Theology in Reading, Pennsylvania, from 1935 to 1941. [Editor's note: This was not a full-time

position at this time, but one that he served concurrently with his episcopal assignment.]

The Evangelical Association was one of the initial members of the Federal Council of Churches, and Bishop Stamm was elected vice-president of this body in 1946 and was elected president in 1948. In addition, he played an active role in the organization of the National Council of Churches. From 1945 to 1956 he was a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches in Bishop Stamm's name.

In order to memorialize his ecumenical work, the Board of Bishops of the Evangelical United Brethren Church set up a special committee to secure funds to furnish a large conference room on the fifth floor of the office building of the National Council of Churches in Bishop Stamm's name.

Bishop Reuben H. Mueller (1897-1982) was elected president of the National Council of Churches in December, 1963 and has also had a long history of ecumenical leadership. He served as an officer of the National Council of Churches for a longer continuous period of time than any other person. In fact he was elected the first recording secretary of the Constituting Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1950.

The son of an Evangelical minister, Bishop Mueller was born in St. Paul, Minnesota. He graduated from North Central College and the Evangelical Theological Seminary, both located in Naperville, Illinois. He served pastorates in

Minnesota and Indiana and was general secretary of the Board of Christian Education and Evangelism prior to being elected a bishop in 1954.

As president of the National Council of Churches from 1963 to 1966 Bishop Mueller presided over its legislative body that included thirty Protestant and Eastern Orthodox denominations. Combined, these denominations comprised more than 144,000 local congregations and about 41,400,000 members.

Bishop Mueller was also a member of the World Council of Churches' Central Committee and chairman of the Evangelical Church's Commission on Church Union. He founded the National Council of Churches' National Christian Teaching Mission. He was a major participant in the process that resulted in the merger of the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren in Christ Church into the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Through their lifetimes, both Bishop Stamm and Bishop Mueller were recognized in many ways for their leadership roles not only within their denomination, but also within the national and international ecumenical movements. They are perhaps the most visible representatives of other members of the EUB heritage who served in many ways in the ecumenical movement of the Twentieth Century.

Telescope-Messenger

Is published twice yearly by the Center
For the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage
United Theological Seminary
4501 Denlinger Road
Trotwood, OH 45426

Editor: Robert L. Frey
Compositor: Patricia Frey
Printer: Peterson Litho Graphics

Correspondence should be sent to the editor at
1356 Hidden Creek Drive
Miamisburg, OH 45342

rlfrey@myexcel.com

Authors of This Issue

Harry M. Buck of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, is a retired Professor of Religion at Wilson College. He is also an ordained clergyman and the brother-in-law of Professor F. W. Gingrich.

Bernard L. Cook is a retired EUB clergyman and general church officer in the Office of Home Missions and the Church Erection Society. He lives in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dwight Busacca is a retired EUB clergyman and a staff member of the Board of Global Ministries for 25 years. He is a member of the EUB Center's Advisory Council and resides at Otterbein Home-Lebanon.

Timothy Binkley is the new archivist of United Theological Seminary and the curator of the collection of the Center for the EUB Heritage.

Robert L. Frey is the editor of the *Telescope-Messenger* and a retired Professor of History and academic dean at several colleges and universities.

Anecdote

During the summer of 1953 my Dad and I attended a conference at the Deerfield Academy in Northfield, Massachusetts. Intended for clergymen and their sons, the conference provided lectures, workshops, worship experiences, and recreational activities designed for young men. Obviously the clergymen had a different agenda. Many prominent theologians and scholars attended the conference, including Dr. Nels Ferré. As on many other occasions in my life, I learned that well-known scholars often have a good sense of humor. To put this humorous incident in context it is necessary to know that my Dad taught Old Testament and Hebrew at the Evangelical School of Theology in Reading, Pennsylvania.

One afternoon the fathers and sons played a softball game. Dad and I ended up on the same team. In fact, as it turned out, I batted immediately ahead of Dad in the order. Toward the end of the game with the score tied, I got a base hit and was on first base with no outs. Now Dad came to bat. He hit a ground ball to the shortstop who tossed me out at second base. Dad, however, reached first base on the play.

As the play ended, Dr. Ferré yelled to Dad, "Hey, Frey, that's an Old Testament trick—sacrificing your son!" Play did not resume for a few minutes as everyone got a good laugh out of Dr. Ferré's comment.

I do not remember who won the game or anything else about it. I just remember a world-renown scholar enjoying the game and demonstrating a good sense of humor. And that is probably what I should remember about the event.

Robert L. Frey

Photo Credits

Page 1 Albright College
Page 2 Tim Binkley
Page 4 American Schools of Oriental Research
Page 6 United Theological Seminary



United Theological Seminary
Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage
4501 Denlinger Road
Trotwood, OH 45426

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DAYTON, OH
PERMIT NO. 579

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED